



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

**Policy Council for Children and Families
Meeting #2**

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
10:00 a.m.**

**Brown-Heatly Building
Public Hearing Room
4900 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78751**

Table 1: Policy Council for Children and Families member attendance at the January 18, 2017, council meeting.

Family Representatives	YES	NO	Professional Representatives	YES	NO
Brodie, Lisa	X		Daugherty-Pineda, Sara MSN	X	
Dilts, Nicole PhD		X	Hatz, Julie Ivey PhD, LSSP		X
Guilton, Cynthia		X	Klantzman, Mary	X	
Masey, Chris	X		Saxton, Josette	X	
McLean, Margaret MSN	X		Tapia, Carl MD	X	
Rummel, Leah	X		Tucker, Elizabeth	X	
Sonnenberg, Lee MA	X		Warren, Laura	X	
Townsend, Janis MA	X		Youth Representative		
Vargas, Silvia	X		Morales, Nicolas		X

"Yes" indicates attended the meeting. "P" indicates participation by phone.

"No" indicates did not attend the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

The Policy Council for Children and Families (PCCF) meeting convened at 10:06 a.m., with Council Chair Leah Rummel welcoming participants to the meeting. Table 1 notes council member attendance at the meeting; it was noted a quorum was present.

**Agenda Item 2: Review and approval of meeting minutes from October 19, 2016
(vote will be taken)**

Ms. Rummel referred council members to the minutes from the October 19, 2016, meeting.

Motion:

Ms. Mary Klantzman moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Sara Daugherty-Pineda seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 4: Review of Open Meetings Act

Ms. Kym Oltrogge, Associate Director for Policy, Office of the Chief Counsel, HHSC, provided a detailed presentation on the Texas Open Meetings Act (OMA), referencing the OMA handout in the meeting packet.

Agenda Item 5: Legislative update

Ms. Kirsten Nuckols, Government Relations Office, HHSC, referred members to the PowerPoint handout, "Texas Legislature" and spoke on the current legislative session while providing a high-level overview on the legislative processes. Ms. Nuckols noted that advisory committee members may testify on specific bills as private citizens and not as representatives of the state agency, and advised legislation may be tracked through the website Texas Legislature Online (TLO), <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>.

Ms. Rummel advised members on the legislative briefing she and eight PCCF/Children's Policy Council (CPC) members presented at the Texas Capitol January 17, 2017, on the 2016 "Texas Children's Policy Council Recommendations for Improving Services for Texas Children with Disabilities"; approximately 50 legislative staff members participated in the briefing.

Ms. Rummel established a Legislative workgroup that will track bills of interest to the council that will be chaired by Vice Chair Chris Massey; members were asked to send their names to Megan Coulter, HHSC, if interested in serving. Other workgroups will be established at the May council meeting, with members tasked to identify topics and issues for the council to select as focus areas. Ms. Jessica Ramos reviewed a handout of bills currently filed in the Texas House of Representatives.

Agenda Item 3: Review of revised bylaws (vote may be taken)

Mr. Jimmy Blanton, Director of the Quality Institute, HHSC, reviewed the draft bylaws handout and noted the revisions incorporated since the October meeting; members suggested additional bylaws revisions, which will be incorporated into the document. Ms. Rummel called for a motion to approve the bylaws.

Motion:

Ms. Daugherty-Pineda moved to approve the bylaws. Ms. Klentzman seconded the motion. The bylaws were unanimously approved by voice vote with no nays nor abstentions.

Action:

HHSC staff will send members the list of appointment terms.

Agenda Item 6: Presentation on STAR Kids

Mr. Brian Dees, HHSC, provided an in-depth overview of the STAR Kids program, the newest managed care program in Texas, which is designed to serve children and young adults (under age 21) who have disabilities; he noted that children in conservatorship (foster care) have remained in the STAR Health program. The program was implemented November 1, 2016, and as of January 1, 2017 has an estimated enrollment of 163,000. Ten different health plans were awarded STAR Kids contracts in 13 different service delivery areas (SDA) throughout the state, with at least two plan choices in each SDA.

Mr. Dees noted three key STAR Kids features: (1) the comprehensive, person-centered assessment process designed to identify individual needs, gaps in care, and the range of services needed; (2) a comprehensive individual service assessment plan; and (3) a strong service coordination model designed to be person-centered. A dashboard has been created that tracks and summarizes the program's metrics and statistics on a weekly basis (i.e. complaints, assessments, calls, outreach), that can be shared with members. Ms. Rummel

asked the members to consider establishing a workgroup centered on STAR Kids and the IDD waivers. Following public comment, the meeting was recessed at 12:19 p.m. for lunch. Ms. Rummel reconvened the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Public Comment:

Ms. Karen Yeaman, a parent and former CPC member, expressed appreciation to the PCCF members for the January 17, 2017, presentation on legislative recommendations at the state capitol.

Action:

HHSC staff will share the weekly STAR Kids dashboard with council members.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion of transition/vocational rehabilitation services for students who are blind or visually impaired (vote may be taken)

Ms. Rummel noted that Council Member Lee Sonnenberg brought up concerns related to the HHSC transition to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) of the vocational rehabilitation services for blind or visually-impaired students to the PCCF's attention, which resulted in the formation of a temporary workgroup to look into the following issues: the lack of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between HHSC and TWC; the lack of clarity on services for the 10-14-year-old age group; the lack of understanding by leadership on the critical nature of the "expanded core curriculum" for the advancement of children with visual impairments; the TWC cancellation of certain programs they consider to fall outside of job skills pre-employment training; and, the need for increased interagency coordination for the "West Texas Cluster."

Subject matter experts participating in the discussion included: William Daughtery, Superintendent, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Kevin Markel, Transition Program Specialist, Blind Services Division, TWC; Claudia Peden, Program Manager, Blind Services Support, Vocational Rehabilitative Services, TWC; Julie Johnson, Field Specialists Manager, Blind Services Support, Vocational Rehabilitative Services, TWC; and, Martha Bagley, Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development Program, HHSC.

Discussion highlights included:

- An MOU is currently in development between HHSC and TWC, and is close to being signed; it is unknown if a public hearing has been held or if other public outreach is being conducted.
- Blind Services and Rehab Services is running a pilot project in the "West Texas Cluster" to implement the legislation combining their services.
- The "expanded core curriculum" is consistent with pre-employment services.
- The TWC internal program approval process has more levels than the HHSC process, to which Blind Services is currently adapting.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation Division will be aligning with the 28 workforce service boards around the state.
- Public meetings and comment are underway regarding proposals for the combined state plan; a provision is under consideration to implement a "grandfather clause" to include the 10-13-year-old age group currently receiving services.
- The Group Skills Training has been cancelled, and there has been a lack of communication to parents.
- Physical Restoration Services are limited (i.e. purchase of eyeglasses or low vision aides; counseling services for adjustment issues; eye medical surgery).
- The HHSC and TWC cultures are different, and planning needs to occur to help families through the transition.

- There has been a lack of communication from TWC to parents about the transition and its effect on programs and services.
- The Texas School for the Blind is a stand-alone agency with its own governing board, and has not been involved in the reorganization and transition of programs.

Action:

Ms. Rummel appointed a workgroup of four members to develop a white paper on the issues noted during the discussion, with recommendations that will be presented to the HHSC and TWC executive leadership.

Agenda Item 8: Facilitated strategic planning exercise (vote may be taken)

Ms. Francesca Kupper, Project Manager, Stakeholder Relations Office, HHSC, provided guidance on formulating the PCCF vision and mission statements and reviewed the council's purpose as laid out in the bylaws; Ms. Elizabeth Tucker provided the CPC vision and mission as context; and, Ms. Rummel read the handout, "A Message from the Family Members of the Children's Policy Council."

- a. Determine vision and mission.** Members were divided into three workgroups, with each reporting out draft vision and mission statements.

Group 1 Vision: The state health, education and human services system supports families in assisting their children to obtain the same opportunities and equal standing in their communities.

Group 2 Vision: Integrated society: disability not an obstacle, families are noticed and visible, child's contributions are valued, children are integral to the world. Outcomes: health, safety, independent and self-advocates, children reach full potential, strong families. **Mission:** System needs for vision: No barriers, individualized, informed families, families and youth have voice, families supported in decisions, systems built around and from the ground up with families, voice for those with no voice, empowered.

Group 3 Vision: We envision an environment where all children and children with disabilities are valued and supported to meet his or her potential that promotes family centered supports and community inclusion. This includes an easily accessible network of individualized services for children with disabilities and their families. **Mission:** The mission of the PCCF is to promote and advocate for public policies that support families of children with disabilities, enabling their children to grow up in families, be an integral part of their communities, and meet their potential.

- b. Discussion on next steps for identifying values, goals, strategies and timelines.** Mr. Blanton and staff will work with Ms. Rummel and Mr. Masey to develop a draft vision and mission based on the work groups' drafts, and will forward to members for review and input, with the goal of adopting vision and mission statements at the next meeting. The vision and mission will provide the context for the PCCF to start development of its strategic plan (i.e. goals, objectives, strategies, tactics) in accordance with its work timeline.

Agenda Item 9: 2018 legislative report

- a. Timeline.** Ms. Rummel will work with HHSC staff to develop for the next council meeting the specific timelines that need to be met in order to have the legislative report printed by May 2018.
- b. Topic selection process.** Ms. Rummel advised members to bring topics and issues to the next meeting to discuss for inclusion in the 2018 legislative report; a process to

brainstorm and select the topics will be facilitated during the next meeting, after which workgroups will be formed.

Agenda Item 10: Action items for staff or member to follow-up

Items identified included the following:

- Standing workgroups will be finalized: Legislative, Vocational rehabilitation services for students who are blind or visually impaired, and STAR Kids. A communications committee will be formed at a later meeting.
- Members will suggest topics for ad hoc workgroups to work on white papers (i.e. VR services, Medical Transportation).
- The Legislative workgroup will monitor and track progress on the CPC legislative recommendations and other legislation of interest.
- Staff will email the Permanency Planning and Sheltered Workshop reports out to members.
- Mr. Blanton will follow-up with Mr. Dees regarding distribution of the STAR Kids weekly dashboard to the members.
- A work plan will be developed to put together a white paper on the transition of blind services between HHSC and TWC.
- Staff will work with Ms. Rummel and Mr. Masey on the vision and mission statements.
- Staff will email members the PCCF appointments term list.
- Family members will provide staff with needed information for travel reimbursement.
- Members will be notified of the next meeting date.

Agenda Item 11: Public comment

No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 12: Adjourn

Ms. Rummel adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.